

How I did thrive in this faire Ladies loue,
And she in mine.

Duke. Say it *Othello*.

Othello. Her Father lou'd me, oft invited me:
Still question'd me the storie of my life,
From yeare to yeare: the Battaille, Sieges, Fortune,
That I haue past.
I ran it through, euen from my boyish daies,
Toth'very moment that he bad me tell it.
Wherein I spoke of most disastrous chances:
Of mouing Accidents by Flood and Field,
Of haire-breadth scapes i'th' imminent deadly breach;
Of being taken by the Insolent Poy,
And sold to slavery. Of my redemption thence,
And portance in my Trauellers historie.
Wherein of Antars vast, and Deserts idle,
Rough Quarries, Rocks, Hills, whose head touch heauen,
It was my hint to speake. Such was my Proesse,
And of the Canibals that each others eate,
The *Antropophague*, and men whose heads
Grew beneath their shoulders. These things to heare,
Would *Desdemona* seriously incline:
But still the house Affaires would draw her hence:
Which euer as she could with haste dispatch,
She'd come againe, and with a greedie eare
Deuoure vp my discourse. Which I obseruing,
Tooke once a pliant houre, and found good meanes
To draw from her a prayer of earnest heart,
That I would all my Pilgrimage dilate,
Whereof by parcels she had something heard,
But not instinctiuely: I did consent,
And often did beguile her of her teares,
When I did speake of some distressfull stroke
That my youth suffer'd: My storie being done,
She gaue me for my paines a world of kisses:
She swore in faith 'twas strange: 'twas passing strange,
'Twas pittifull: 'twas wondrous pittifull.
She wist'd she had not heard it, yet she wist'd
That Heauen had made her such a man. She thank'd me,
And bad me, if I had a Friend that lou'd her,
I should but teach him how to tell my story,
And that would wooe her. Vpon this hint I spake,
She lou'd me for the dangers I had past,
And I lou'd her, that she did pittie them.
This onely is the witch-craft I haue vs'd.
Here comes the Ladie: Let her witnesse it.

Enter Desdemona, Iago, Attendants.

Duke. I thinke this tale would win my Daughter too,
Good *Brabantio*, take vp this mangled matter at the best:
Men do their broken Weapons rather vse,
Then their bare hands.

Bra. I pray you heare her speake?
If she confesse that she was halfe the wooer,
Destruction on my head, if my bad blame
Light on the man. Come hither gentle Mistris,
Do you perceiue in all this Noble Companie,
Where most you owe obedience?

Des. My Noble Father,
I do perceiue heere a diuided dutie.
To you I am bound for life, and education:
My life and education both do learne me,
How to respect you. You are the Lord of duty,
I am hitherto your Daughter. But heere's my Husband;
And so much dutie, as my Mother shew'd

To you, preferring you before her Father:
So much I challenge, that I may professe
Due to the Moore my Lord.

Bra. God be with you: I haue done.
Please it your Grace, on to the State Affaires;
I had rather to adopt a Child, then get it.
Come hither Moore;
I here do giue thee that with all my heart,
Which but thou hast already, with all my heart
I would keepe from thee. For your sake (*Isewell*)
I am glad at soule, I haue no other Child,
For thy escape would teach me Tirranie
To hang clogges on them. I haue done my Lord.

Duke. Let me speake like your selfe:
And lay a Sentence,
Which as a grise, or step may helpe these Louers.
When remedies are past, the griefes are ended
By feeling the worst, which late on hopes depended,
To mourne a Mischeefe that is past and gon,
Is the next way to draw new mischiefe on.
What cannot be prefer'd, when Fortune takes:
Patience, her Iniury a mock'ry makes.
The rob'd that smiles, steals something from the Thiefe,
He robes himselfe, that spends a bootelesse griefe.

Bra. So let the Turke of Cyprus vs beguile,
We loose it not so long as we can smile:
He beares the Sentence well, that nothing beares,
But the free comfort which from thence he beares.
But he beares both the Sentence, and the sorrow,
That to pay griefe, must of poore Patience borrow.
These Sentences, to Sugar, or to Gall,
Being strong on both sides, are Equiuocall.
But words are words, I neuer yet did heare:
That the bruiz'd heart was pierc'd through the eares.
I humbly beseech you proceed to th' Affaires of State,

Duke. The Turke with a most mighty Preparation
makes for Cyprus: *Othello*, the Fortitude of the place is
best knowne to you. And though we haue there a Substi-
tute of most allowed sufficiencie; yet opinion, a more
soveraigne Mistris of Effects, throwes a more safer
voice on you: you must therefore be content to snubbe
the glosse of your new Fortunes, with this more sub-
borne, and boystrous expedition.

Othello. The Tirant Custome, most Graue Senators,
Hath made the stinny and Steele Coach of Warre
My thrice-driven bed of Downe. I do agnize
A Naturall and prompt Alacartie,
I finde in hardnesse: and do vndertake
This present Warres against the *Ottomites*.
Most humbly therefore bending to your State,
I craue fit disposition for my Wife,
Due reference of Place, and Exhibition,
With such Accomodation and befort
As leuels with her breeding.

Duke. Why at her Fathers?

Bra. I will not haue it so.

Othello. Nor I.

Des. Nor would I there recide,
To put my Father in impatient thoughts
By being in his eye. Most Graious Duke,
To my vnfoldng, lend your prosperous care,
And let me finde a Charter in your voice
T'assist my simplenesse.

Duke. What would you *Desdemona*?

Des. That I loue the Moore, to liue with him,
My downe-right violence, and storme of Fortunes,

May trumpet to the world. My heart's subdu'd
Euen to the very quality of my Lord;
I saw *Othello's* visage in his mind,
And to his Honours and his valiant parts,
Did I my soule and Fortunes consecrate.
So that (deere Lords) if I be left behind
A Moth of Peace, and he go to the Warre,
The Rites for why I loue him, are bereft me:
And I a heauie interim shall support
By his deere absence. Let me go with him.

Othello. Let her haue your voice.
Vouch with me Heauen, I therefore beg it not
To please the palate of my Appetite:
Nor to comply with heat the yong affects
In my defect, and proper satisfaction.
But to be free, and bounteous to her minde:
And Heauen defend your good soules, that you thinke
I will your serious and great businesse scant.
When she is with me. No, when light wing'd Toys
Of feather'd Cupid, feeble with wanton dulnesse
My speculative, and offic'd Instrument:
That my Disports corrupt, and taint my businesse:
Let House-wiues make a Skillet of my Helme,
And all indigne, and base aduersities,
Make head against my Estimation.

Duke. Be it as you shall priuately determine,
Either for her stay, or going: th' Affaire cries halt:
And speed must answer it.

Sen. You must away to night.

Othello. With all my heart.

Duke. At nine i'th morning, here wee'l meete againe.

Othello. I leave some Officer behind
And he shall our Commission bring to you:
And such things else of qualitie and respect
As doth import you.

Othello. So please your Grace, my Ancient,
A man he is of honesty and trust:
To his conueyance I assigne my wife.
With what else needfull, your good Grace shall thinke
To be sent after me.

Duke. Let it be so:
Good night to euery one. And Noble Signior,
If Verue no delighted Beautie lacke,
Your Son-in-law is farre more faire then Blacke.

Sen. Adieu braue Moore, vse *Desdemona* well.

Bra. Looke to her (Moore) if thou hast ries to see:
She ha's decei'd her Father and may thee. *Exit.*

Othello. My life vpon her faith. Honest *Iago*,
My *Desdemona* must I leaue to thee:
I prythee let thy wife attend on her,
And bring them after in the best advantage.
Come *Desdemona*, I haue but an houre
Of Loue, of wordly matter, and direction
To spend with thee. We must obey the time. *Exit.*

Rod. *Iago*.

Iago. What hast thou Noble heart?

Rod. What will I do, think'st thou?

Iago. Why go to bed and sleepe.

Rod. I will incontinently drowne my selfe.

Iago. If thou do'st, I shall neuer loue thee after. Why

thou silly Gentleman?

Rod. It is sillinesse to liue, when to liue is torment:
and then haue we a prescription to dye, when death is
our Physition.

Iago. Oh villanous: I haue look'd vpon the world
for foure times seuen yeares, and since I could distinguish

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